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The Mexican Situation.

It has been evident for years that we are growing more and more like Europe in matters pertaining to war. The navy now has regularly its great "war game," and it seems that at present we are entering upon a period of "big manœuvres" for the army like those indulged in yearly on the borders by the military countries of the Old World. To what further extent this militarization is to grow is for the people of the United States to decide, and it is time they were deciding it very quickly.

It is not, of course, to be expected that the national army, however small it may be, will be kept in barracks continually and not given an opportunity to carry on practical exercises on a large scale. But in a supposedly non-military country like ours, it is to be expected that these manœuvres will be conducted in such a manner as not to excite the spirit of war among the people and promote suspicion and sense of insecurity among neighboring peoples. Half the distrust and tension between Great Britain and Ger-

many has been probably the direct result of the frequent big navy demonstrations of the two powers in the neighboring waters. The inevitable fruit of such demonstrations is distrust, fear and panics, such as England has been a prey to for some years, and until you can get figs of thistles it will always be so.

The immediate effect of the mobilization of an army of twenty thousand men near the Mexican border has been alarm on the other side, and a rush at the recruiting stations of excited young men and boys to enlist. It would have been just as easy to carry on the manœuvres in some other part of the country remote from the disturbances in Northern Mexico. Thus might have been avoided that kindling of the war passion which has taken place in view of the possibility of meeting some real foe in battle. We are glad to notice that the proceeding of the War Department has been widely and very severely criticised as liable to bring on a conflict with a friendly neighbor toward whose government and people we have for a whole generation and more professed the highest respect.

If there was no reason to fear war or serious interference with the rights of American citizens in Northern Mexico, as we have been assured, why should this demonstration have taken place at all near the border? The idea that this great body of troops was needed down there to patrol the border and preserve order is ridiculous. One-fifth of the number of troops would probably have been ample for this purpose. It has been hard, therefore, for the common man to understand the motive of the proceeding, and all sorts of mischievous rumors have been set affoat. The sensational newspapers have, of course, been quick to take advantage of the situation to fill their daily editions with all sorts of rumors: President Diaz was dying and Mexico was to tumble into confusion and anarchy on his passing; Mexico and Japan had a secret treaty to the peril of the United States; Americans doing business in Mexico were in imminent danger of being slaughtered. Others who have disapproved of the course of our government have been quick to express the suspicion that the American capitalists in Mexico were at the bottom of the thing, hoping to get our government at the opportune moment to intervene, overthrow the Diaz administration, suppress the insurrection, and then "take possession" in the interests of American

There is little doubt that the Mexican insurrection